(12) **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(72) Inventors:
• Hotta, Yoshinobu
Nakahara-ku, Kawasaki-shi, Kanagawa 211 (JP)
• Naoi, Satoshi
Nakahara-ku, Kawasaki-shi, Kanagawa 211 (JP)
• Suwa, Misako
Nakahara-ku, Kawasaki-shi, Kanagawa 211 (JP)

(74) Representative: **Godsill, John Kenneth et al**
Haseltine Lake & Co.,
Imperial House,
15-19 Kingsway
London WC2B 6UD (GB)

(54) **Character recognition apparatus and method**

(57) Clusters (a, b, c, d, e, f) are generated by clustering the feature vectors of input characters. Clusters (d) which are likely to contain misrecognized characters are not integrated into other clusters. If there is a character that is determined to be likely to have been misrecognized and if there is a cluster (a) belonging to another character category having similar feature vectors, then that input character is integrated into the similar cluster and the character category of that input character is changed into the character category of the similar cluster (change category from 4 to 2).
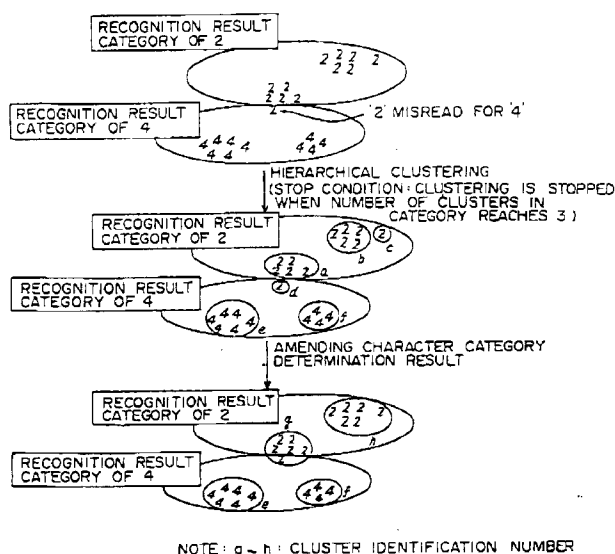
FIG. 14

EP 0 790 574 A3

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 97 30 1064

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
A	PATTERN RECOGNITION LETTERS, vol. 14, no. 4, 1 April 1993, pages 335-343, XP000355550 TAKAHIKO KAWATANI ET AL: "VERIFICATION OF PERSONAL HANDWRITING CHARACTERISTICS FOR NUMERALS AND ITS APPLICATION TO RECOGNITION" * paragraph 5.1 *	1-33	G06K9/66
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
			G06K

The present search report has been drawn up for all claims

Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE	13 January 1998	Sonius, M

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